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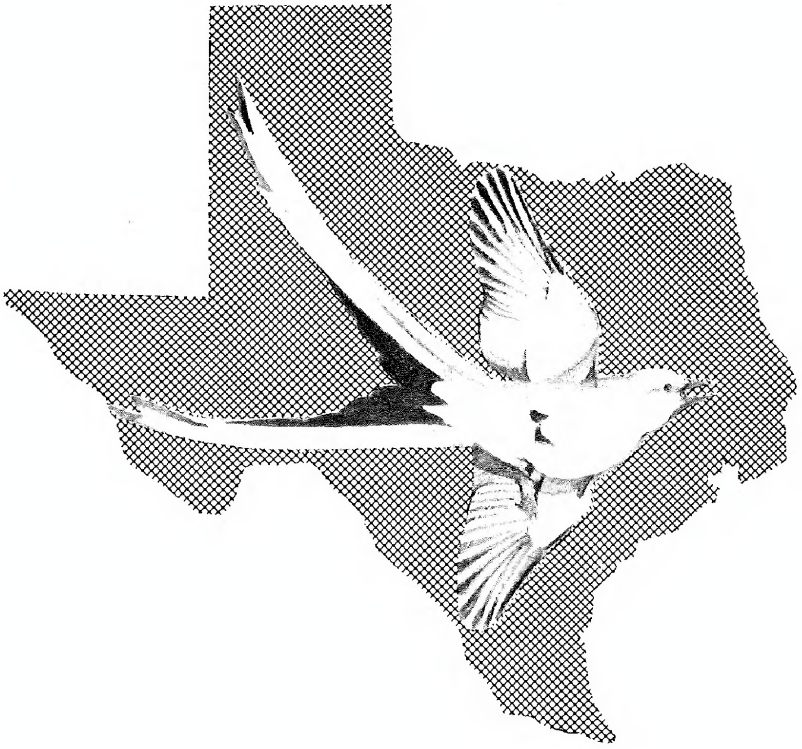

1989

BULLETIN OF THE

TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1988

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This report contains the decisions of the Texas Bird Records Committee (hereafter "TBRC" or "committee") reached during 1988. For information on previous actions of the TBRC see Lasley (1988) and Arnold (1984 and 1985). 1988 was the first complete year that the TBRC operated under its current set of Bylaws which call for the committee to review all reports of the Review Species. In general, the Review Species are those that have occurred four or fewer times per year in Texas on an average over the past ten years. The TBRC is attempting to review all available reports of Review Species no matter how long ago they occurred if a description or photo is available. Many of the records submitted to the TBRC during 1988 were found in old *American Birds* or Christmas Bird Count files, thus a substantial portion of the work of the committee during 1988 was to catch up on older records. The TBRC reached final decisions on 169 records during 1988: 122 records of 57 species were accepted, and 47 records of 38 species were not accepted, an acceptance rate of 72.2% for this report. There were 205 observers who submitted descriptions or photos of records that were reviewed during 1988.

This report officially adds eight species to the Texas state list: Glossy Ibis, Muscovy Duck, Crane Hawk, Mew Gull, Mottled Owl, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Yellow-eyed Junco, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. The TBRC also reviewed the only previously accepted record of Arctic Tern for the state when the record was questioned by several persons. After review, the TBRC voted to not accept the record thus deleting that species from the official state list. These actions brought the state list to 568 species at the end of 1988.

The TRBC solicits reports of any species on the Review List which is published at the end of this report, as well as any species not previously reported in Texas. We desire written descriptions as well as photographs if available. If anyone has information concerning a Review Species but is unsure how to submit that information please contact any member of the TBRC or the author of this report. There is a document available that lists every known record of the Review Species and giving the status (accepted, rejected, unsubmitted) of each record. If interested in this document, contact the author.

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following *The AOU Checklist of North American Birds* (AOU 1983) as currently supplemented. Within each species the records are listed chronologically. The TBRC file number is preceded by the year the record was originally submitted to the committee. If photos are on file with the TBRC, the Texas Photo Record File (TPRF) number is given. If a tape recording of the bird is on file with the TBRC, the Texas Bird Sounds Library (TBSL) file number is given. Specimen records are denoted with an asterisk (*) followed by the institution and file number (if available) where the specimen is housed. The information in each account is usually based on the information provided in the original documentation submitted, but I have supplemented this with a full range of dates the bird(s) was present if that information

was available to me. All observers who submitted written documentation or photos of accepted records are listed by initials. The initials of the original discoverers of any particular bird(s) are in **boldface** when this information is known to me. There has been no attempt to list all observers who saw a particular bird. The abbreviation *AB* in the below text refers to *American Birds,* a publication of National Audubon Society. All locations in *italics* are counties.

TBRC Membership: Members of the TBRC during 1988 who participated in the decisions listed in this report are: Keith Arnold, Chairman, Greg Lasley, Secretary, Ted Eubanks, Jim Morgan, Ken Seyffert, Frances Williams, Warren Pulich, and John Arvin.

Contributors: Lynne Aldrich, Tony Amos, Ben Archer, Tony Armijo (TAr), Mike Austin, Alma Barrera, Sharon Bartels, Jo Barten (JBa), Sue Bayley (SBay), James Beard, Bob Behrstock, Chris Benesh, Louis Bevier, Charles Boozer, Richard Bradley, Marcia & Ron Braun (M&RBrau), Bruce Broadbrooks, Bedford Brown, Dan Brunton (DBru), Kelly Bryan, Thomas Burke, Sheriton Burr (SBu), Caroline Calley (CCa), Nancy Calley (NCa), Jim Cameron, A. G. Canaris (AGC), Steve Cardiff (SCa), Oscar Carmona, Elizabeth Cheeseman, Charlie Clark, Gary Clark, R. D. Coggeshall (RDC), Bev Collier, Tom and Sherry Collins, John Coons, Silas Cooper, Rob Copeland, Wesley Cureton, Vidal Davilla, Irby Davis, Dave DeSante (DDe), Donna Dittman, Joyce Dolch (JDol), Jeff Donaldson (JDon), Gladys Donohue, Helen Downing, Jon Dunn, Richard Eakin, Charles Easley, Karen Edelson, Pat and James Ellis, Victor Emanuel, Ted Eubanks, Mike and Rose Farmer (M&RFa), Harold Fetters, Shawneen Finnegan, Charles Fisher, Raymond Fleetwood (RFl), Tony Gallucci, Charles and Louise Gambill (C&LGa), Luther Goldman, Michel Gosselin (MGo), Peter Gottschling, William Graber, Ed Greaves, Jeffrey Greenhouse, Michael Greenwald, Bryan Hale, Adele and Gerald Harding (A&GHar), Tim Harris, William Harwell, Carl Haynie, Donald Hazelwood (DHaz), Dave and Jill Heath, Mitch Heindel, Rhandy Helton (RHe), Chuck Hill (CHi), Dan Hillsman (DHi), Steve Hilty, Ned Hudson, Ron Huffman, Joe Ideker, Ruth Islieb, Nick and Debbie Jackson, Charlotte Johnson, Jerome Johnson, Barry Jones, Kevin Karlson, Kent Kennon (KKe), I. G. Kennon, Jack Kent, Edgar Kincaid (EKi), Jeff Kingery (JKi), Joseph Kleiman, Ollie and Nick Komar, Sandy Komito, Mike Krzywonski, Ed Kutac, John Lamey (JLam), Jim Lane, H. P. Langridge (HPL), Greg Lasley, Paul Lehman, John Lieftinck, Terry Little, Mark Lockwood, Annette Macek (AMac), Donna Maddox (DMad), Curtis Marantz, James Marshall (JMa), Edward Masthay, Davis Matson (DMat), Terry Maxwell, Wayne McAlister, Guy McCaskie, Mary Ann McClendon, Eve McCullough (EMcC), Elric McHenry, Ann McKenzie (AMcK), Bonnie McKinney, R. D. Medland (RDM), Ruthie Melton (RMel), William Meriwether, Don Meyers (DMey), June Moore (JuM), Jim Morgan (JMo), Tom Morris (TMo), Lois Moulton, Pat Moynahan, Ernest and Kay Mueller (E&KMu), John Muldrow (JMu), Andy O'Neil, Frank Oatman, Bob and Pam Odear (B&POd), Ollie Olsen, Nancy and Paul Palmer, Helen and Max Parker, Michael Patten (MPat), Steve Perry, Jon Peterson, Noel Pettingill (NPe), Arnold Pfrommer, Tom Pincelli, Randy Pinkston, Dave Pope, Paul Pratt (PPr), Warren Pulich, Jr., Scott Rea, Barbara and John Ribble (B&JRi), Robert Righter, Don Roberson, Phillip Rostron, John Rowlett, Rose Ann Rowlett (RAR), Luis and Sue Santaella (L&SSan), Tim Schantz (TSch), Willie Sekula, Chuck Sexton, Ken Seyffert, Michele Skeele, Charles Smith (CSm), Rich-

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Acknowledgments.—The TBRC is grateful to the many contributors listed above, without whom this report would not be possible. We would also like to thank the following consultants who provided valuable information to the TBRC concerning several records: William S. Clark, Jon Dunn, John W. Hardy, Jerome Jackson, Ned Johnson, Kenn Kaufman, Paul Lehman, Ralph Moldenhauer, Nancy Newfield, Ted Parker, Doug Pratt, J. Van Remsen, Kenneth Rosenberg, Tom Schulenberg, and Malcolm Mark Swan. In addition I would like to thank Chuck Sexton, Keith Arnold, Barry Zimmer, Jim Morgan, Carl Haynie, and John Arvin for reviewing early drafts of this article.

Accepted Records

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). One (1988-170, TPRF #653) photographed at the Newman Power Station in *El Paso* on 30 October 1985 (**BZ, JDon**). One (1988-186) seen 1–6 December 1987 at Calaveras Lake near San Antonio, *Bexar* (**WS**). One (1988-156, TPRF #646) at Lake Balmorhea, *Reeves* 31 January until 29 February 1988 (MA, FW, LB, AW), A photograph of the Lake Balmorhea bird was published in *AB* 42:283.

Arctic/Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica/pacifica*). It is presumed that all records of this species complex in Texas pertain to Pacific Loon but since sight or photo identification in winter plumage of these two species is difficult at best the TBRC has voted to list all records as Arctic/Pacific for the present time. One (1988-118) at Rockport, *Aransas* 17 December 1985 (**CC**). One (1988-198) at Stillhouse Hollow Lake, *Bell* 15 March 1987 (**ML**). One (1988-168) at Lake Waco, *McLennan* 15 December 1987 (**JMu**). This species may be more regular in Texas than has been assumed in the past. The TBRC has several records of this species that were still in circulation at the end of 1988.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*). This species was formerly regarded as a color phase of the Western Grebe. Until 1985 most observers did not attempt to separate these forms in the field in Texas, but when the AOU named Clark's Grebe as a separate species in 1985 more attention was focused on its occurrence in Texas. Our knowledge is still limited, but it may be shown that this species is quite regular in winter in west Texas and it may be taken off the Review List in the future. One (1988-173) at the Newman Power Station in *El Paso* 13 December 1985 (**BZ, JDon**). Two (1988-190) at Lake Balmorhea in *Reeves* 14 March 1986 (**LB**). One (1988-151, TPRF #565) at Lake Balmorhea 28 December 1986 until 6 February 1987 (**ML**). A photo of the 86–87 Balmorhea bird was published in *AB* 41:297. Two (1988-157) at Lake Balmorhea 16 December 1987 until at least 16 February 1988 (PL, FW, AW, LB). Several other records of this species were still being considered by the TBRC at the end of 1988.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*). One (1988-50) studied in detail 14 May 1972 on South Padre Island, *Cameron* (**JMa**).

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*). Two (1988-143, TPRF #633) photographed 19 August 1982 from a boat off Port Aransas, *Nueces* (**TA**). One (1988-140, TPRF #630, *TCWC #12161) found dead 4 August 1984 at Port Aransas, *Nueces* (**TA**). One (1988-141, TPRF #631, *TCWC #12160) found dead 9 November 1987 at Port Aransas, *Nueces* (**TA**).

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*). One (1988-167, TPRF #644) studied and photographed 20 April 1980 at High Island, *Galveston* (CE, B&JRi, VE).

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*). One (1988-139, TPRF #628, *TCWC #12163) found dead 13 November 1984 at Port Aransas, *Nueces* (**TA**). One (1988-138, TPRF #629, *TCWC #12162) found dead 7 October 1987 at Port Aransas, *Nueces* (**TA**).

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*). Two immatures (1988-52) seen 20 August 1977 at the Port Aransas jetties, *Nueces/Aransas* (M&RBrau, GL). One adult (1988-127) near the mouth of the Rio Grande at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 20 December 1987 (**TG**). This is the only accepted winter record of the species in Texas.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). One (1985-5, TPRF #352) at Eagle Mountain Fish Hatchery, *Tarrant* from 3–6 November 1983 and (what is presumed to be the same bird) returning 20 October until 15 December 1984 (**RDC**, CH, JSta). This record was originally not accepted by the TBRC (Arnold, 1985), but was resubmitted after additional material was made available. This record represents the first accepted record for Texas. One (1988-1, TPRF #559) photographed 21 April 1987 at Port Bolivar, *Galveston* feeding with a group of White-faced Ibises (**JR**, **JSte**, RDM, EW, VT). The spring of 1988 saw several more Glossy Ibis reports which were still in circulation through the committee at the end of 1988.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*). One (1988-68) of the sub-species *hrota* seen 2 January 1976 on Aransas NWR, *Aransas* (**WLDW**). Two (1988-82, TPRF #598) of the sub-species *hrota* at Hagerman NWR, *Grayson* from 21 November 1987 until 26 January 1988 (**AMac**, JWi, CH). One of these birds only remained about two weeks.

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*). Up to two adult and two immatures (1988-259, TPRF #401). Accepted dates include 7 Dec. 1984, 4 March through 12 April 1985 at Santa Margarita Ranch and Salineno in *Starr* and 11 April through 30 April 1986 at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr* (**VE**, FT, DHaz, DBru, RHe, GL, SH, BZ, B&POd, JP, AMcK). These records represent the first Texas and U.S. records of what are presumed to be wild vagrants from Mexican populations. Extensive documentation demonstrating population expansion in Mexico due to a nest box program was reviewed in detail by the TBRC and the ABA. It is known that the possibility of feral birds in the area of the presumed wild individuals exists, and all identifications of presumed wild birds should be well documented for review by the TBRC.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). One male (1988-192, TPRF #656) shot by a hunter 16 November 1976 in *Hudspeth* (**AGC**, BZ). One male (1988-147, TPRF #658) photographed in *El Paso* 11 February 1979 (KZ). One male (1988-13, TPRF #560) present at McNary Reservoir in *Hudspeth* from 18 March through

11 April 1985 (**BZ**, JDon). One male (1988-183, TPRF #654, *Texas A&I Univ.) shot 3 January 1988 at Laguna Salada, *Kleberg* (**TH**).

Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*). One male (1988-196, TPRF #657) present near Rio Hondo, *Cameron* from 28 March thru 18 June 1988 (M&RFa, PP, H&MP, JJ, OC, CH, EG, BB, JMu). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 42:372.

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*). One (1988-87, TPRF #595) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* from 20 December 1987 thru 9 April 1988 (**GWal**, **BC**, TSch, GM, OC, SP, DR, GL, CM, JD, SW, KK, C&LGa, TG, GWag). This exciting bird was the first record for Texas and the U.S. A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 42:194. This record is still being reviewed by the ABA.

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). One (1988-107) near Encino, *Brooks* on 23 April 1987 (**AO**, **PP**, **SB**). This species is reported in south Texas on many occasions but is seldom well documented.

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*). One immature (1988-128, TPRF #639) photographed 28 November 1982 at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* (GL) was apparently present for several weeks but the TBRC has not been provided with any other descriptions or dates. One immature (1988-119) at Big Lake, Welder Wildlife Refuge, *San Patricio* 24–30 November 1985 (CC). One immature (1988-116) just west of Refugio, *Refugio* 14-31 March 1986 (CC).

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*). One (1988-33) at Hornsby Bend Ponds, Austin, *Travis* 29 & 30 March 1976 (**JWh**, **B&JRi**). This is the only accepted Texas record away from the coast. Several records from the upper Texas Coast were still in circulation through the committee at the end of 1988.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). One (1988-57) on Galveston Island, *Galveston* 28 April 1968 (**SWi**, **NPe**). One (1988-57) also on Galveston Island, 29 April 1968 (different individual than above) (**SWi**, **NPe**). One (1988-78) north of High Island, *Chambers* 11 April 1981 (**AW**). One (1988-6) at the Williamson Creek Ponds, Austin, *Travis* on 5 October 1982 (**GL**, CS). It should also be noted that a Ruff that has been previously accepted (1986-4, TPRF #409) returned to San Antonio in the fall of 1987 and the fall of 1988 and was photographed (WS, MH, GL) on both occasions.

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). One (1988-142, TPRF #632, *TCWC #12145) found at Port Aransas, *Nueces* 1–3 February 1988 (**TA**).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). One adult (1988-35) in Austin, *Travis* 16 August 1975 (**RAR**). One adult (1988-161) seen flying over Aransas Bay, *Aransas* 20 February 1987 (**EK**).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). One immature (1988-179) at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* on 7 March 1988 (**GM**).

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*). One first-winter bird (1988-137, TPRF #648) photographed at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 8 February 1983 (**TA**).

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*). One first-winter bird (1988-149, TPRF #634) present at Fort Hancock Reservoir, *Hudspeth* (**PL**, **SF**, LB) from 1 January 1988 until at least 13 February 1988 represented the first accepted record for the state. A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 42:194.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). One third-winter bird (1988-150, TPRF #635) at Fort Hancock Reservoir, *Hudspeth* on 1 January 1988 (**PL**, **SF**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). One adult (1988-65, TPRF #592)

photographed at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 29 March 1976 (**AW**, **RC**). One adult (1988-123) at the Greenwood City Dump, Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 30 December 1980 (**CC**). One adult (1988-134, TPRF #625) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 14 March 1984 was thought to belong to the race *fuscus* or possibly *intermedius* (**TA**). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 38:933. One adult (1988-86) at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* 16 January & 24 February 1988 (**TE**, AW). It should also be noted that the Lesser Black-backed Gull first photographed in 1983 at Port Aransas (TPRF #333) has wintered at the same location in each year since then and was still present at the end of 1988. It has been photographed by several observers each winter.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). One first-winter bird (1988-129, TPRF #640) at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* 25–27 April 1981 (RP, O&NK, GL). One first-winter bird (1988-135, TPRF #626) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 29 February 1984 (**TA**).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). One second-winter bird (1988-110) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 4 January 1986 (**WP**). One adult (1988-11) 10 mi east of High Island, *Jefferson* on 27 April 1986 (**LB**, **DW**, **CM**).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). One immature (1988-136, TPRF #647) photographed at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 2 November 1982 (**TA**) is the latest ever fall record in Texas. One immature (1988-180) at the Amarillo sewage pond, *Randall* from 7–11 September 1987 (**DMey**, KS).

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*). One male (1988-30) 42 mi north of Rio Grande City in *Brooks* 21 January 1979 (**AB**). Two (male & female) (1988-95, TPRF #602) at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* from 12 December 1987 through "early" May 1988. (MA, BH, BM, FW, JTv, AW). The male was seen most often but could be quite difficult to locate at times. A photo of the male bird was published in *AB* 42:284.

Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*). One (1988-45) in Galveston, *Galveston* 30 December 1964 represents the earliest state record (**P&JE**). One (1988-88) at White Oak Bayou in Houston, *Harris* on 4 May 1987 (**WC**).

Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*). One (1988-18, TPRF #377) found dead along the side of the road near Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo* on 23 February 1983 (**DHi**). This record made two circulations through the TBRC and the question of the origin of the bird was thoroughly discussed. Several committee members expressed some concern that the bird might have been accidentally transported to the U.S. in the grill of a vehicle and dropped to the pavement in Texas. In the end, however, the committee voted to accept the record. The species occurs in the wild within about 80 miles of the Texas border. This represents the first Texas and first U.S. record. This record is also being reviewed by the AOU and the ABA. See Lasley, Sexton, and Hillsman (1988).

Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*). One (1988-166, TPRF #641) found dead along the road in *El Paso* on 15 November 1985 (**BZ**, **JDon**).

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*). Two (1988-38) near Rockport, *Aransas* on 4 December 1974 (**TB**, **SS**) represented the first state and U.S. record of the species. One (1988-144, TPRF #555) at Freeport, *Brazoria* on 20 December 1987 was the first time the species had been photographed in the U.S. (JMo, TE, WSm, PG, LA, CSm, CCa, NCa). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 42: 289 and *AB* 42:551.

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*). One (1988-69) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* 11–28 July 1961 (RFl, EKi, NH, ID). One (1988-70) at San Benito, *Cameron* on 14 April 1964 (RFl, NH). The above two records represent the earliest accepted state and U.S. records.

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*). One male (1988-44) at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo* on 23 June 1962 (**HPL**). One male (1988-102, TPRF #627) photographed in San Antonio, *Bexar* on 25 May 1975 (A&GHar). One female (1988-172) at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* on 18 September 1985 (**BZ, JDon**). One male (1988-178) at Falfurrias, *Brooks* on 15 January 1988 (**AO**).

Violet-crowned Hummingbird (*Amazilia violiceps*). One (1988-83, TPRF #594) at El Paso, *El Paso* from 2–14 December 1987 (**EMcC**, BZ, JDon) represented the first state record. A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 42:193.

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costate*). One male (1988-159, TPRF #645) at a feeder in Kingsville, *Kleberg* from 21–24 January 1988 (**A&MWi**, N&PP). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 42:289.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*). One male (1988-51, TPRF #620, *tail feathers TCWC #12164) in Helotes, *Bexar* from 6 November through 20 December 1987 (**PM, SBay**, GL, RH). This report represents the first unquestioned record for Texas; the only other accepted record is a specimen that apparently shows hybrid characteristics with Rufous. See Newfield (1983). The Helotes bird was netted, measured, and photographed in the hand. The species is very difficult to confirm in Texas since there are published references to green-backed adult male Rufous Hummingbirds. At our present state of knowledge it is necessary to capture and measure any suspected Allen's Hummingbird before the record can be accepted by the TBRC.

Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). One (1988-19) in the Davis Mountains, *Jeff Davis* on 15 March 1983 (**RE**). One (1988-63, TPRF #605, *TCWC #12165) discovered 1 December 1987 (**TG, E & KMu**, GL, BA) in Kerrville, *Kerr* delighted observers for five months before being found dead on the road on 26 April 1988 (AP). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 42:194. One (1988-115, TPRF #623) in Ft. Worth, *Tarrant* from 17 January until 13 April 1988 (**KKe, IK**, CH, AW, RDC). There are over 30 undocumented reports of this species in Texas since 1935, but only five accepted records by the end of 1988.

Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*). One female (1988-171) at the Hueco Club Golf Course in *El Paso* on 17 September 1986 (**BZ**). There are approximately 60 reports of this species in Texas over the years, most are apparently without any documentation that can be submitted to the TBRC.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*). One (1988-80, TPRF #596) at the Johnson property near Port Bolivar, *Galveston* from 7–10 May 1983 (**PV**, JMo, DMat) represents the second Texas record and the first time photos have been taken of the species in Texas.

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*). A pair (1988-131, TPRF #655) was photographed at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo* (GL) on 27 November 1982. These birds were apparently seen from late October 1982 into January 1983 but no additional written documentation was submitted to the TBRC. An immature male (1988-90) was at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 28 & 29 December 1987 (GM, PL). A female (1988-133) was at Salineno, *Starr* from 20–29 January 1988 (CB, GL, KB). This bird was probably present from December 1987 into February

1988 but no additional documentation was submitted. Like the Lewis' Woodpecker and Williamson's Sapsucker, there are many undocumented reports of this species in Texas, but very few accepted records.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) One (1988-14) in Amarillo, *Potter* on 19 January 1979 (**BZ**). Three (1988-98) at Guadalupe Mountains Nat. Park, *Culberson* on 27 November 1987 (**RH**, **PM**, **SBay**).

American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*). One or two (1988-94, TPRF #601) from 24 October 1987 until 14 March 1988 in McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains Nat. Park, *Culberson* (**TAr**, ML, N&DJ, OO, VD).

Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*). One (1988-71) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* from 2–5 March 1962 (**JLi**, RFl). One (1988-96, TPRF #593) at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo* on 24 March 1976 (**AW**). One (1988-120) at Bentsen State Park 18 January 1981 (**CC**). One (1988-22, TPRF #700) from 31 December 1981 until 5 February 1982 at the Sarita rest stop, *Kennedy* (SCa, MGo). The winter of 1987–88 saw a virtual invasion of this species into south Texas and several records are still in circulation through the committee. Accepted records thus far include: One (1988-145) in Weslaco, *Hidalgo* on 5 December 1987 (RFa). Two (1988-89, TPRF #599, TBSL #173-01) from 13 December 1987 until 5 April 1988 at Santa Ana NWR (TSch, KE, TG, GM, GL, MPat, PL, BA). Two (1988-145) at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* from 14 December 1987 until 25 January 1988 (**M&RFa**). One (1988-132) in McAllen, *Hidalgo* on 28 December 1987 (**GM**, **PL**) and reported without details into January 1988. One (1988-176) on 15–16 January, 28 February, and 3 March 1988 in Falfurrias, *Brooks* (**AO**). One (1988-163, TPRF #643) near Ricardo, *Kleberg* on 21 January 1988 (**PP**, **AO**). One (1988-184, TPRF #659) at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* 7–12 February 1988 (**BJ**). One (1988-185) south of Falfurrias, *Brooks* on 20 February 1988 (**JDol**). Two (1988-174) at San Ygnacio, *Zapata* on 21 February 1988 (**HW**). One (1988-162) in Victoria, *Victoria* from 28 February until 3 April 1988 (**RMel**). It should also be noted that a pair or two of Clay-colored Robins has been resident at Bentsen State Park since at least 1985 and has nested successfully several times (TPRF #355, TBSL #163-01).

Rufous-backed Robin (*Turdus rufopalliatus*). One (1988-20) at Falcon Dam, *Starr* on 29 December 1975 (**GM**, **JD**).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). One male (1988-148, TPRF #652) in Midland, *Midland* from 8 January until 17 February 1988 (FW, ML, TL).

Aztec Thrush (*Ridgwayia pinicola*). One adult male (1988-27) at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 30 January 1979 (**JC**, WP).

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*). Five (1988-25) seen 12 February 1980 in *Bastrop* (**HD**). One (1988-177) in Falfurrias, *Brooks* on 24 December 1987 (**AO**).

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*). One male (1988-155, TPRF #637, TBSL #159-01) at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* from 15 February until 3 April 1988 (**M&RFa**, **J&DH**, CS, GL, KK, GWag, AW, MA, GM, JD, MPat) represents the first accepted Texas and U.S. record since 1927. Photos of this bird were published in *AB* 42:194, 291.

Red-faced Warbler (*Cardellina rubrifrons*). One (1988-104) in the Franklin Mountains, *El Paso* on 16 May 1968 (**L&SSan**). One (1988-105) in Buescher State Park, *Bastrop* on 11 May 1982 (**AS**). See Lasley *et al.* (1982).

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*). One (1988-100, TPRF #604) from 31 December 1987 until 19 March 1988 at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* (**PPr, JBa**, JI, DR, LM, JKi, TG, BB, MPat, GM, GWag, OC, KK, BA, SW, CM, HW).

Crimson-collared Grosbeak (*Rhodothraupis celaeno*). One female or immature (1988-81, TPRF #597, TBSL #157-01) at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo* from 2–12 November 1987 (**SR, C&LGa**, GWag, KE, PS, MA). One adult male (1988-91) 28 December 1987 at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* (**JLam**, GM, PL). One female or immature (1988-99, TPRF #603) at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* from 28 December 1987 until 29 April 1988 (**M&RFa**, GL). One female or immature (1988-164, TPRF #638) at Laguna Vista, *Cameron* on 31 January 1988 (**MK**). A photo of this bird was published in *AB* 42:194. One female or immature (1988-152, TPRF #636, TBSL #162-01) at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* from 3 February until 9 April 1988 (**BJ, EC, TS**, MA, CC, GL, AW, GM, JD, MPat).

Blue Bunting (*Cyanocompsa parellina*). One immature male (1988-130) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 18 October 1985 (**DDe**). One or two males (1988-103, TPRF #621, TBSL #161-01) from 13 December 1987 until 9 January 1988 at Santa Ana NWR (KE, SK, SP, DP, TSch, TG, PL, CM, OC). Three (one male and two females) (1988-93, TPRF #600) from 21 December 1987 until at least "early" April 1988 in the trailer loop at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo* (GWag, GM, MPat, CM, JSn). One female (1988-92) along a hiking trail in Bentsen State Park on 29 December 1987 (**GM**). One female (1988-153) from 20 December 1987 until 12 February 1988 in Clute, *Brazoria* (**MA, JB**, PL, WC). One male (1988-154, TPRF #642) from 20 December 1987 until "early" January 1988 in Brazosport, *Brazoria* (**TMo, TC, CHi**, JMo). One female (1988-125, TPRF #622, TBSL #161-01) seen on 5 & 30 January 1988 at Salineno, *Starr* (**TG**, KK). One female (1988-191) at Santa Ana NWR on 12 January 1988 (**CM**). One female (1988-146) at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* on 7 February 1988 (MFa) may have been present for up to three weeks prior to that date, but no documentation was submitted for earlier dates.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). One (1988-56) from 25 October 1986 until 10 February 1987 at Junction, *Kimble* (**N&DJ**).

Yellow-eyed Junco (*Junco phaeonotus*). Two (1988-97) in McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains Nat. Park, *Culberson* on 25 November 1987 (**RH, PM, SBay**). One (1988-187, TPRF #660) in McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains Nat. Park from 20 March until "early" April 1988 (**OO**, MS). The above two records represent the only currently accepted Texas records and may pertain to the same bird(s).

Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Carduelis lawrencei*). One (1988-101, TPRF #533) at Hueco Tanks State Park, *El Paso* on 7 Dec 1984 (**RW**) represents the only accepted Texas record despite many undocumented reports over the years.

Unaccepted Records

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. It is rather uncommon for a record to not be accepted because the bird was obviously misidentified. More often, a record may be denied acceptance because the information provided to the TBRC was not sufficient to document the reported occurrence or eliminate all other similar species.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). One (1988-43) at Woodlawn Lake, San Antonio, *Bexar* on 2 November 1961. Two (1988-58) at Port Mansfield, *Willacy* on 6 January 1969.

Arctic/Pacific Loon (*Gavia arctica/pacifica*). One at Braunig Lake, *Bexar* on 6 November 1987.

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*). Forty-five (1988-29) seen off Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 2 October 1976. The TBRC felt that a correct identification was probably made but the details taken at the time were not sufficient to accept the record.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*). One (1988-53) along Los Olmos Creek on the *Kleberg/Kenedy* line on 30 May 1965.

White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*). Two (1988-54) off of Galveston, *Galveston* on 12 November 1966. This species has been reported on several occasions in Texas over the years but sufficient documentation has never been obtained to allow its inclusion on the Texas list.

Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*). Two (1988-9) reported flying over Port Bolivar, *Galveston* on 26 April 1987. The TBRC expressed doubts concerning the identification as well as the possible origin of these birds if indeed they were Scarlet Ibises.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*). Fifteen (1988-10) seen flying over the surf at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 7 April 1986. The TBRC expressed concern over the brevity of this observation.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*). One male (1988-85) at Packery Channel, *Nueces* on 2 December 1987. The TBRC generally felt that the submitted description was not detailed enough to eliminate the possibility of Common Goldeneye. There is still not an unquestioned record of this species in Texas.

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). One (1988-169) in *Kimble* on 16 February 1988.

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*). One (1988-2) reported from 27 December 1986 until 5 February 1987 at Brownsville, *Cameron.* This was a frustrating record for the TBRC in that there were just a few descriptions submitted even though it was reported that one hundred or more observers saw the bird. Of the submitted descriptions there were too many discrepancies for the committee to rule out some plumages of Broad-winged or Red-shouldered Hawk. There were no photos submitted even though it was reported that the bird allowed close approach and it is likely that someone did take pictures of it. As with any unaccepted record, the TBRC will gladly review the record for a second time if additional information or photos are obtained.

Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*). One (1988-49) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 24 April 1972. One (1988-48) at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* on 17 March 1973. One (1988-36) at Falcon Dam, *Starr* on 12 April 1975. In the above three cases the TBRC felt that the descriptions were too brief and not detailed enough to rule out other species.

Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*). Three (1988-7) reported at Blackjack Point, *Aransas* on 2 May 1987.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*). One (1988-47) at Rockport, *Aransas* on 28 December 1970. The TBRC expressed concern over the lack of a description of the rump of the bird as well as the very unusual date.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). One (1988-16) near Winnie, *Chambers* on 19 April 1987.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). One immature (1988-112) in *Brazoria* on 31 December 1983. The TBRC felt the bird was certainly a jaeger *species,* however the submitted description was not sufficient for a positive identification.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). One immature (1988-31) at Austin, *Travis* on 10 September 1976.

Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). One (1988-60) at Rockport, *Aransas* on 22 & 27 January 1972.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). One to three adults (1988-108) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 21 & 24 October 1971. One adult (1988-12) at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 29 December 1985. One first-winter bird (1988-158) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 20 December 1987.

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*). One adult (1988-122) at Greenwood City Dump, Corpus Christi, *Nueces* on 30 December 1980. The TBRC felt that a correct identification was likely made, but the submitted description did not totally eliminate several other gull species including Yellow-footed Gull.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). One adult (1988-62) at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* on 11 November 1973.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). One (1988-199) at the Bolivar Jetty, *Galveston* on 25 October 1987.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*). One (1988-55) on Bolivar Peninsula, *Galveston* on 8 April 1968. One (1988-24) at Rollover Pass, Gilchrist, *Galveston* on 10 November 1980. There is still not an unquestioned record for Texas of this species.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). Five (1988-165, TPRF #78) at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* from 12–26 April 1975. This record had been the only accepted Texas record for 13 years, but was reviewed by the TBRC in 1988 when several persons questioned its validity. After review, the TBRC felt that neither the photo nor description was sufficient to eliminate Common Tern from consideration.

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*). One (1988-46) near Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* on 21 April 1970.

Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*). One (1988-66) at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 24 September 1975.

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*). One (1988-61) on 24 March 1973 at Corpus Christi, *Nueces.*

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*). One (1988-41) at Brownsville, *Cameron* on 20 August 1974.

Elegant Trogon (*Trogon elegans*). One (1988-72) at San Benito, *Cameron* on 23 & 24 September 1957. The TBRC felt that this was a good record, but the details that were gleaned out of old files were simply not sufficient for acceptance. The TBRC is making an effort to obtain additional information on this record and it may be resubmitted at a later date.

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*). One (1988-17, TPRF #505) in Houston, *Harris* 9–13 March 1987. Although not listed as a "Review Species" by the TBRC, the committee reviewed this record at the request of a member. The photos clearly show a red patch on the nape of the bird, however other characters tend to be more consistent with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Evidence

was presented to the committee that indicates some Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers can show red at the nape.

Nutting's Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nuttingi*). One (1988-188) at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend Nat. Park, *Brewster* on 23 January 1988. The TBRC felt that definitive photos or tape recordings of calls would be necessary to accept a first state record of this species which is so similar to several other members of its genus.

Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*). One (1988-32) at Bentsen State Park, *Hidalgo* on 29 March 1976.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). One (1988-75) at La Porte, *Harris* on 25 October 1958.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). One (1988-59) in *Nacogdoches* on 28 November 1969.

Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*). One (1988-34) in *McCulloch* on 25 November 1975. There are still no accepted records of this species in Texas despite many unconfirmed reports over the years.

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloqus*). One (1988-23) at Crystal Beach, *Galveston* on 10 April 1982.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*). One (1988-42) in San Antonio, *Bexar* on 23 May 1959. One (1988-28) at the Sabal Palm Sanctuary, *Cameron* on 24 January 1979.

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*). One (1988-40) at San Ygnacio, *Zapata* on 27 January 1975. One (1988-21) at San Ygnacio, *Zapata* on 27 February 1982. One (1988-84) at San Ygnacio, *Zapata* on 28 November 1987. The TBRC did not feel that any of the above records gave adequate descriptions for this species. The general birding community assumes that this species is regular in south Texas and there are several unconfirmed reports each year. The fact remains that at the end of 1988 there was only one accepted record of this species in the past 60 years which is also listed in the present report. Observers need to exercise great caution in making identifications of this species.

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*). One (1988-8) at Brownsville, *Cameron* on 31 December 1985.

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Review List: The Review List below is in its early stages and there may be some changes during the next few years. We hope that this list will become relatively stable in a very short time. We welcome reports of the following birds as well as any report of a species not yet accepted in Texas:

Red-throated Loon, Arctic/Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Cory's Shearwater, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Red-billed Tropicbird, Blue-footed Booby, Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby, Glossy Ibis, Jabiru, Greater Flamingo, Brant, Muscovy Duck, American Black Duck, White-cheeked Pintail, Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Masked Duck, Snail Kite, Common Black-Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Crane Hawk, Roadside Hawk, Aplomado Falcon, Paint-billed Crake, Spotted Rail, Double-striped Thick-Knee, Northern Jacana, Eskimo Curlew, Surfbird, Purple Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Heermann's Gull, Mew Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Elegant Tern, Roseate Tern, Arctic Tern, Brown Noddy, Black Noddy, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Mangrove Cuckoo, Snowy Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Mottled Owl, Spotted Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, White-collared Swift, Green Violet-ear, Broad-billed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Antillean Crested Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon, Lewis' Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Greenish Elaenia, Greater Pewee, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Gray-breasted Martin, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-billed Magpie, American Dipper, Clay-colored Robin, Rufous-backed Robin, Varied Thrush, Aztec Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Gray Silky-flycatcher, Black-whiskered Vireo, Yellow-green Vireo, Yucatan Vireo, Connecticut Warbler, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Red-faced Warbler, Golden-crowned Warbler, Rufous-capped Warbler, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, Blue Bunting, Baird's Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Yellow-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Black-vented Oriole, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Lawrence's Goldfinch.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Winter Whooping Cranes in the Texas Hill Country in 1854

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Wintering grounds of the Whooping Crane (*Grus americanus* L.) were concentrated on the Western Gulf Coast but little historical information has been available on these areas. Recently, a reference to Whooping Cranes in inland Texas in the winter of 1854 was discovered. These observations were not known to Allen (1952) and are of significance because of the paucity of reports of inland wintering groups.

Frederick Law Olmstead was a surveyor and landscape architect who designed many major metropolitan parks including Central Park in New York City. As part of his abolitionist studies, Olmstead traveled extensively in the American south. He made numerous observations on natural history and sociology as he traveled through much of Texas during the mid-1850's (Olmstead 1857). During the winter of 1854, Olmstead recorded two occurrences of the Whooping Crane in the eastern margin of the Texas Hill Country. On 15 January 1854 "very large birds with black-edged wings; and very long necks and legs" were seen in prairie between Manchac [sic] Spring and the Blanco River, probably in northern Hays County (Olmstead 1857:135). Later, on some unspecified date between 19 January and 14 February (most likely in early February) a "second flock of five or six of the immense white cranes (I suppose *grus Americana* [sic]" on Salado Creek on the Comanche Spring Road to San Antonio. On the second occasion Olmstead's group did their "best to get one in hand, but found them exceedingly shy . . ." (Olmstead 1857:224).

Previous historical winter observations of the Whooping Crane in Texas were mostly in coastal prairies and marshes (Sennett 1878; Nehrling 1882). Allen (1952) reported that "interior tablelands [and] grassy plateaus" of central Texas were "of minor importance as winter quarters," but few detailed records are known. Strecker (1912; 1927) reported that the Whooping Crane had been an abundant winter resident in McLennan County, but by 1912 it was only "uncommon in winter."

The few inland Texas records known are generally autumn and spring migratory individuals. McCall (1851) reported a single pair along Hondo Creek west of San Antonio in November 1845. Benners (1887) reported an "immense flock" in Williamson County in the spring of 1884. However, Lloyd (in Cooke 1888) observed Whooping Cranes in the San Angelo area (winter 1884–1885 to 5 March) and the Frio and Nueces canyons (winter 1881–1882).

Olmstead (1857) did not record detailed behavioral notes in his journal. His

first observation concerned "some white objects on a hill." The second group observed were undoubtedly feeding on aquatic or amphibious animals along Salado Creek. Whereas Allen (1952) speculated that amphibians, reptiles, fishes, and crustaceans were the dominant items in the diet of migrating Whooping Cranes, more recent observations indicate that insects and unharvested grain are eaten in recently harvested fields (U.S.D.I. 1980). The Whooping Cranes observed by Olmstead (1857) were probably seasonal residents that occupied these Hill Country habitats during the cold season. Weather records for New Braunfels and Sisterdale (Olmstead 1857: 484–485) indicate several hard freezes had occurred in the area in January 1854 alone; lowest temperatures recorded for the two localities were −6.1°C and −10°C, respectively.

These inland wintering grounds of the Whooping Crane were probably minor as judged by Allen (1952), but all such habitats were significant to a species that is presently so rare. Permanent occupation by non-aboriginal human settlers drove these birds from these inland habitats that have now been altered extensively by land use practices.

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Great Blue Heron Kills and Carries Off an Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

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For several days during October 1986 a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) was noticed to be spending an unusual amount of time standing and walking about on the lawn at the home of the George Coalson family at Loyola Beach, Kleberg County, Texas. The home lies on the Cayo del Grullo, the estuary of San Fernando Creek which forms one arm of Baffin Bay. At about 1600 h on 25 October 1986 Angeline Coalson and her daughter Sarah were startled by high-pitched squeals coming from their yard. Both went out the south door of the house, Sarah carrying a pair of 7-power binoculars. About 30–35 m away to the southeast a Great Blue Heron held an Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Silvilagus floridanus*) pinned to the ground and was striking at it with its beak. The rabbit appeared to be fully grown. At that time the animal was still alive but helpless and crying out loudly as the heron stabbed it repeatedly.

As Sarah approached, the heron seized the rabbit in its beak and flew, carrying it. Rising 2–3 m to clear a small mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), the bird flew more than 20 m, mostly down-slope, and landed with its prey near the edge of the water, out of direct line-of-sight. By that time the rabbit had ceased crying and was presumed to be dead.

I examined the scene some 48 hours later. By that time there were no discernible signs of the rabbit at the spot where it had last been seen. Even if the carcass had been abandoned there by the heron, it is almost certain that some scavenger, such as a Coyote (*Canis latrans*), plentiful in the area, would have removed it in the meantime.

It is well established that herons prey on a variety of wildlife, including mammals (Bent 1926; Palmer 1962; Oberholser 1974; Terres 1980; Hancock and Kushlan 1984; Eckert and Karalus 1987). It has also been noted that the Great Blue Heron sometimes takes prey items too large for it to swallow (Terres 1980; Hancock and Kushlan 1984). While there is no published record of a wild Great Blue Heron killing a mammal as large as an adult Eastern Cottontail, John J. Audubon reported a captive specimen of the Great White Heron subspecies (*A. h. occidentalis*) killing a sleeping house cat and another *A. herodias* and even stalking small children (1840, cited by Bent 1926). There is also a record of a Great White Heron swallowing a Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (Olsen and Johnson 1971), which, though weighing somewhat less than a cottontail, is not much smaller.

There are records of Great Blue Herons actually swallowing fish considerably larger and at least as heavy as a small adult Eastern Cottontail (Eckert and Karalus 1987). Terres (1980) reports an instance of a Great Blue Heron dying as a result of trying to swallow a shad "about two feet long." Wolf and Jones (1989) report two instances of Great Blue Herons apparently suffocating while trying to swallow Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentata*) of about the same length.

The ability of the heron to take off and fly with such a burden might be considered doubtful. An adult Eastern Cottontail measures from 800 to 1,500 grams (Nowak and Paradiso 1983). An animal near the low end of that range would probably not be beyond the capacity of a Great Blue Heron to carry during a short flight. It is also possible that the rabbit may not indeed have been an adult and might have measured even less than 800 grams, surely manageable by a bird the size of the Great Blue Heron. James Kushlan, a respected specialist on herons, did not find my telephone account of the sighting unbelievable (Pers comm, 1986).

Acknowledgments

I thank Angeline, George and Sarah Coalson for their information and their patience with my repetitious questioning. Thanks also to Harry B. Sanders for additional observations of herons feeding in the fields around Loyola Beach. Thanks to Allan H. Chaney for information on area mammals. I especially thank Professor James Kushlan for his readiness to share his hard-earned expertise with an inquisitive stranger.

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First Photographic Record of Common Redpoll in Texas

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At approximately 0900 CST on 7 January 1989, Oleta Bilger noticed an odd looking finch feeding with American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*) and House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) at her home near Glen Rose, Somervell County. She suspected the bird beneath her feeder was a redpoll and called upon an acquaintance to provide confirmation. June Stacey of Fort Worth, joined by Charles Crabtree of Granbury, observed the bird later that day. Each indepen-

dently identified the finch as a Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*), and several photographs were obtained by Crabtree.

At 0900 CST on 8 January 1989, eight observers including myself, photographed and studied the bird in detail for over two hours at close range (mainly from 10 m) as it fed on sunflower seed with approximately 200 American Goldfinches, ten House Finches, and three Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*). The bird remained for nearly two months and was last observed on 1 March 1989. Photographs were forwarded with written details to the Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) of the Texas Ornithological Society. The following description is based on photographs and taped conversations taken 8 January and 11 February 1989.

This bird was a small finch closest in size and shape to an American Goldfinch. In overall appearance, it resembled a Pine Siskin but displayed a bright wine-red cap or "poll" generally circular in shape and centered about the top of the head between the forehead and hind crown. There was a thin, diffuse border of black rimming the cap, mainly along the front and back edges, and it had a blackish wash on the face beneath the eye and around the loral area. Beneath the bill extended a small rectangular black bib rounded at the bottom and sharply set off on the throat from the otherwise pale neck and breast. When observed closely from below, the bird's "cheek" feathers glistened red. At all other times and angles during the study, the cheeks appeared black.

The eye was bordered above and below by a thin, split white eye-ring, and the iris was black. The bill was short and horn colored with a hint of dusky at the base of the upper mandible. A thin black line followed the ridge of the lower mandible. The lower mandible flattened out next to its base, but otherwise the bill appeared very conical. Much of the wing was patterned and colored dark gray like a Pine Siskin's wing. Two white wingbars were evident against the gray background. The distal wingbar (the white fringe on the greater coverts) was the bolder of the two in both breadth and length.

The flanks and breast sides were boldly marked by dark brownish streaks. These streaks were thickest on the flanks but more concentrated on the breast sides. A broad clear region of white extended ventrally from the bib to the under tail coverts. The legs were blackish and the thighs were feathered light gray. On the under tail coverts, two or three thin dark streaks were present but difficult to discern. The "rump," however, was distinctly streaked by dark lines. The forked tail was roughly the same shade of gray as the wing, not black as shown in some field guides, and was thinly streaked with white. The back was boldly marked by dark brown streaks that merged with thinner streaks on the nape. Ground color on the back was buffy.

A review of the literature affirmed the bird was a Common Redpoll, and that likely it was an adult female (Dunn et al. 1987; Eckert 1983; Robbins et al. 1983; Peterson 1980; Pough 1949). The bird's very streaked and brownish appearance failed to produce a "frosty" quality so often mentioned in descriptions of Hoary Redpolls (*C. hornemanni*), and the streaked upper tail coverts were unlike those described on typical Hoarys (Dunn et al. 1987; Eckert 1983; Robbins et al. 1983; Peterson 1980; Pough 1949). The sharpness and brilliance of the bird's plumage suggested it was an adult since immature (first-winter plumage) redpolls are known to have "dull brownish-black" chin patches and "dull crimson" crown spots (Clement 1968). Additionally, the lack of a conspicuous pink breast would seem

to eliminate the possibility it was an adult male (Eckert 1983). I could find no mention in the literature of red check patches being present on female redpolls. However, I did find one published photograph taken of a "female Common Redpoll" having similar markings (Flygare 1976).

The T.O.S. checklist of the birds of Texas lists two previous accepted records of *Carduelis flammea* for the state (Texas Ornithological Society 1984). Both were of sight records from the Panhandle region. One was observed from 25 November 1965 through 16 January 1966 in Randall County, and the other on 27 November 1977 in Ochiltree County. There are a few reports of the species from other areas of the state, but none which have been accepted by the TBRC (Pulich 1988; Lasley 1988; Oberholser 1974). In May 1989 the committee accepted the sightings herein reported as the third record for the state and the first with photographic documentation.

Acknowledgments

I sincerely wish to thank Greg Lasley for supplying me with information from the TBRC files and to the many persons who took time out to submit their detailed reports of this species. Thanks are also owed to the Bilgers. Because of their cooperation and gracious hospitality, roughly 180 observers were able to see this bird.

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An Unusual Occurrence of the White-throated Swift in Central Texas

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At dusk on 10 January 1989, we observed a swift over the Texas A&M University campus, College Station, Brazos County, Texas. The swift was circling about the Oceanography and Meteorology Building, one of the taller structures on campus. Shortly thereafter the swift entered, and apparently roosted in, a small cavity on the underside of a concrete facade approximately 30 m from the ground on the north side of this same building. The sky was overcast; there were light southerly winds; the temperature was approximately 10°C.

The following day (11 January) we observed the bird in the air at the same site. We identified it as a White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*) on the basis of the notched tail, bold white throat and white flank-patches (Scott 1983). Weather conditions were similar to those of the previous evening except that temperatures had risen to above 15°C. The swift was continuously observed for more than one hour, during which it appeared to be actively foraging. Most of this activity occurred between estimated altitudes of 10 m and 60 m over an open area about one hectare in size on the north side of the Oceanography and Meteorology Building. No vocalizations were heard. At dusk the swift entered the same cavity occupied the previous evening.

On 12 January, a cold front brought strong northerly winds, freezing temperatures and cold rain. That afternoon we observed the swift in the air immediately adjacent to the south side of the Oceanography and Meteorology Building. The swift appeared to confine its activities to a small area of relatively still air downwind of the building. The inclement weather persisted through 13 January 1989. During this time the swift remained inactive, roosting in a small cavity in the underside of a concrete facade approximately 30 m from the ground on the south side of the building. By the morning of 14 January 1989, the rain had stopped and temperatures had moderated somewhat. At 0900 the bird was still at roost. At 1100 we could not find the swift in the air, at roost, or on the ground. Searches of the area over the next several days failed to reveal the bird.

This sighting represents the first winter record for the White-throated Swift in central Texas. Oberholser (1974) reports that during the winter months, this species is fairly common in the Chisos Mountains but scarce to rare in the remainder of the Trans-Pecos; it is absent from other areas of Texas.

It is not known how long the bird had been on campus prior to this sighting. The White-throated Swift regularly occurs in winter farther north than any other North American species of swift. The regular winter range of this species extends north to southern Nevada, central Arizona, southern New Mexico and west Texas

(Scott 1983). In view of this relative hardiness, it seems possible that individuals of this species could overwinter in central Texas during mild winters.

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Additions to the Avifauna of Coahuila, Mexico

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Two hundred and sixty-seven species of birds have been reported in the literature for Coahuila (Marsh and Stevenson 1938; Burleigh and Lowery 1942; Amadon and Phillips 1947; Friedmann et al. 1950; Miller 1955; Van Hoose 1955; Friedmann et al. 1957; Urban 1959; Ely 1962; Garza de Leon 1987). Here, we report 7 additional species not previously published for the state. Most sighting dates are from field work done by Benson and Benson in the Serranias del Burro. Frequency of occurrence information is provided by Garza de Leon from many years of observation in Coahuila.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*): occurs regularly, particularly during spring and fall. We also observed one during the summer (8 July 1988). This sighting was at a large stockpond in the Valle Los Venados which lies between the Sierra del Carmen and the Sierra El Infante and is north of Highway 22.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*): an irregular winter visitor. We observed a flock of 7 Canvasbacks, 65 km west of Saltillo in November 1988. On 12 March 1989, we observed 2 Canvasbacks in a mixed flock of ducks on the large stockpond in Valle Los Venados.

Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*): this duck is an irregular winter visitor. We discovered 3 in the mixed flock of ducks on the Valle Los Venados stockpond on 12 March 1989.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*): Although this species is common on larger lakes in Coahuila in the winter, we observed an adult male in breeding plumage on the Valle Los Venados stockpond in mid-summer (8 July 1988). Even though no females were observed, breeding may have occurred. Breeding records exist in adjacent portions of Texas (Ysleta and Ft Bliss NE Quadrangles—*Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Project*).

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*): Since the 1970s, observations of the Black-shouldered Kite have been increasing in frequency. We saw this bird in the

vicinity of Melchior Muzquiz on 8 July 1988, 12 March 1989, and again in late May 1989.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): The starling is associated with human settlements of North America, and has recently been found in the towns of the Mexico–USA border. We observed small numbers of starlings along Highway 57 just south of Piedras Negras on 6 June 1987. Presently, starlings seem to be confined to the border region.

Audubon's Oriole (*Icterus graduacauda*): This species was previously known only from unpublished observations from the southeast part of Coahuila, along the border of Nuevo Leon. Recently, we observed this oriole in the canyons of the Serranias del Burro, 400 km farther northwest of other sightings for the state. We first heard Audubon's Orioles in the Canyon El Infante on 8 June 1987. Singing individuals were also observed on 9 July 1988 and 12 March 1989 at Canyon Las Amapolas (102°16′W, 28°54′N), On 15 April and 22–25 May 1989 we heard and saw Audubon's Orioles in Canyon de La Zorra at Rancho El Bonito (101°55′W, 29°02′N). The Audubon's Oriole is well established in the area and is probably a permanent resident.

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ATTENTION AUTHORS.—The *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society* is a semi-annual journal which publishes original research reports and short communications in the field of ornithology. Articles on a wide range of subjects are accepted, including documentation of new Texas records, interpretations of laboratory and field studies, historical perspectives on Texas ornithology, and developments in theory and methodology. Although the emphasis is on Texas birds, the *Bulletin* accepts papers which advance the knowledge of birds in general.

Manuscripts, including tables, should be typed and double-spaced on one side of 8½ × 11 inch (22 × 28 cm) white paper. Allow 3 cm margins on all sides. Manuscripts may be printed using a high-resolution dot-matrix or letter-quality printer. The last name of the first author must be at the top of each page of the manuscript and on the back of every figure. Submitted articles should follow the format observed in this and subsequent issues of the *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society*. Feature articles should include an abstract and a "Literature Cited" section. Short Communications do not need an abstract.

Scientific and common names of North American birds must follow the 1983 A.O.U. Check-list and supplements. The 24-hour clock (0730), the continental dating convention (3 January 1989), and the metric system should be used.

Submit an original and two complete copies of the manuscript. Each manuscript will be subject to editing and will normally be reviewed by at least two persons who are knowledgeable in the subject. The reviewers will provide the editor with advice on the article's acceptability and accuracy. If the article passes review and is correct in form, it will be scheduled for publication. A voluntary page charge of $35 per printed page will be assessed. Payment of complete page charges will normally result in earlier publication. Accepted articles will be published on a "space available" basis if the page charges are not paid. Authors will be sent proofs of their articles prior to the final printing; information on ordering reprints will be supplied at that time.

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ARTISTS.—The *Bulletin* encourages submission of original artwork and photographs of Texas birds to be used on the inside front cover of the publication. Send art and photos to Karen L. P. Benson, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2258.

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